

## **WOMT Summary for June 5, 2012**

WOMT met and discussed the following:

The Smelt Working Group recommended no change in projected operations based on a review of delta smelt distribution and salvage data, current Delta conditions and projected operations. The Working Group also agreed that given their present distribution, existing constraining conditions was sufficient to protect longfin smelt. The Working Group will continue to monitor smelt salvage, larval smelt survey data, and delta hydrological conditions and will reconvene June 11, 2012, at 10 am.

Currently as of June 5, 2012, the FWS and DFG deem that no additional actions are needed for protection of delta and longfin smelt.

DOSS advises NMFS and WOMT that the projects should be operating to the NMFS BiOp RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management) or IV.2.2 (6-Year Acoustic-Tag Study), whichever is more conservative, through June 15. RPA IV.2.2 requires a minimum of 1:1 Vernalis inflow-to-export ratio (or 1,500 cfs combined pumping, whichever is greater) from June 1 through June 15, unless water temperatures exceed 72°F at Mossdale for 7 consecutive days.

NMFS' final determination on June 7, 2012, is that operating to the 1:1 Vernalis inflow to export ratio from June 1 to June 15, as provided in Action IV.2.2, is not necessary for this year, based on the following: 1) the 1:1 Vernalis inflow to export ratio limit was intended to be implemented in concert with a 6-year acoustic tag study steelhead release in June; 2) best available science indicates that steelhead take up to 2 weeks to outmigrate, so although not a definitive conclusion, most, if not all, of the steelhead released on May 22 have likely migrated out of the 6-year study area; and 3) Vernalis inflow to export ratio during the period from June 1-5 were already different than the minimum provided in Action IV.2.2, so hydrodynamic conditions were already different than what was intended as part of June steelhead release. Therefore, NMFS accepts the advice from DOSS that the Projects should continue to operate to NMFS BiOp RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management of -5,000 cfs) until June 15.